PARENT TRICKS
REDUCE CAVITY RISK WITHOUT FORBIDDING CANDY {page 14}

DWINDLING BUZZ
IS AVRIL'S REIGN AS CANADA'S POP-PUNK PRINCESS OVER? {page 12}

WEEKEND OF VIOLENCE
TWO DEAD, BOY SHOT
{page 3}

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News worth sharing.

JAMES TURNER/METRO

▶ Passengers were treated to brisk service at the departures check-in, located on the second floor of the terminal.

Terminal lands rave reviews

Official opening of new $585-million facility appears to go off without a hitch ◐ More passenger-friendly amenities

JAMES TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

Impressive. Better. Wow.

These are just a few of the words used by air travellers yesterday after becoming the first to experience Winnipeg's new airport terminal first-hand.

The official ribbon-cutting for the $585-million complex at Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport took place yesterday morning.

Officials from the Winnipeg Airports Authority (WAA) and government showed up to toast the completion of the long-awaited project.

"This will stand up to any airport in North America," said Mayor Sam Katz, who lauded the 51,000-square-metre, two-level terminal's modern design and decor.

"Airport travel has changed," said Katz. "And now we've caught up."

Modern makeover

A few of the new terminal's features include:

- A parkade connected by a pedestrian walkway.
- Car rentals just feet from the front door.
- Greater selection of restaurants and stores.
- LEED-certified for energy efficiency.

The energy-efficient terminal's first morning appeared to go off without a hitch.

The airport's old terminal — it opened in 1964 — lay in darkness nearby.

However, for people like Herb Reynolds, there's little about the old terminal's past to get nostalgic about.

Reynolds is a driver for the Kivalliq Inuit Centre and was on hand helping people from northern communities navigate the airport's check-in.

"I have no great nostalgia for the old terminal," he said. "This is a modern, brand-new terminal. When they get everything up to running snuff, I'm sure it will be great," he said.

"The most important thing is they're getting home," he said, referring to what most are really at the airport for. "(The terminal) is just a vehicle to get them there."

JAMES TURNER/METRO

▶ Mayor Sam Katz, right, cheers after cutting the ribbon to mark the airport terminal's opening.

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1 news

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3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to **m.metronews.ca**

On the web at metronews.ca

The recent agreement on the EU's plans to bail out Greece promises to have the expected warming effects on the markets. Video at metronews.ca

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Jets. Shut out

▶ Tampa Bay Lightning center Vincent Lecavalier stops after getting past the Jets' Johnny Oduya and Randy Jones during the second period of Saturday's game in Tampa.

CHRIS O'MEARA/THR ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lightning struck one too many times

The Jets did all they could in the third period on Saturday but it wasn't enough to steal victory from Tampa Bay, who made their home fans happy with a 1-0 win.

Perogy Supper makes its very own miracle

Set in a parish that is threatened by the cancellation of their perogy suppers
Accessible production combines humour and uplifting message without being preachy

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

In what was supposed to be a one-time show that well-known local playwright Danny Schur wrote in a day, The Perogy Supper Miracle seems to have cast a miracle of its own.

"We're up to at least a dozen productions," said Schur, who originally wrote the musical as a fundraiser for his church.

Churches from Vancouver to Toronto and even one in the U.S. have tapped Schur for the production, which features a cast of seven. Schur said he originally wrote the main character with Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church's former priest, Rev. Mark Gnutel, in mind.

The appeal of the production is several-fold, said Schur, noting the small cast, the simple-but-catchy tunes, and the fact the play can be done with minimal staging. Pair the musical with an actual Ukrainian-inspired supper (including, of course, perogies) and churches have been making thousands of dollars off the production.

Schur said he's not lost on the irony of the situation. The playwright of Strike! The Musical, Schur has been flogging that particular production to theatre and movie companies for a decade whereas Perogy Supper has simply expanded through word of mouth.

"Sometimes, it's just one of those things that seems almost holy in how it works out," said Schur.

Catch the show

- The Perogy Supper Miracle will run on Nov. 5 at Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church in support of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Provincial Council.
- Call 330-5331 for tickets.

SUPPLIED

▶ Sister Janet Kozak of the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate plays the role of the nun in the production. The role was written with her in mind.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO

▶ Water cascades down the side of the building as the cleanup begins.

Traffic blocked on Henderson after apartment fire

75-year-old woman taken to hospital in unstable condition ◐ Cause of fire is under investigation

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

Traffic on Henderson Highway was rerouted both ways late yesterday morning as Winnipeg firefighters battled an apartment fire.

Several people from the Fort Agassiz apartment building were evacuated to a waiting Winnipeg Transit bus while smoke poured out of an 11th-storey corner unit on the west side.

Dozens of fire trucks and other emergency vehicles dotted Henderson while firefighters shepherded apartment dwellers and cleaned up the scene.

Winnipeg police said the fire was spotted by a passing police vehicle. A 75-year-old woman was taken to hospital in unstable condition, where she has since been upgraded to stable.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

There is no current word on damages.

See more photos at metronews.ca/winnipeg

Police seek public's help after bloody weekend

JAMES TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

It was a weekend of extreme violence with seemingly few answers for Winnipeg police after two men were gunned down, a boy was shot and another man badly stabbed.

By press deadline, no arrests had been announced in connection to the events, and investigators were asking the public for help in cracking all four cases.

Oudy Phrakonekham, 20, was shot and later died early Saturday while sitting with others in an SUV near nightclub row in the Exchange District just before 2:30 a.m. Saturday. The vehicle sped away from the scene and came to a stop on Arthur Street near McDermot Avenue.

Paramedics rushed Phrakonekham to hospital, but he didn't survive. It's unknown whether the young man was the intended target of the shooting, Aitken said. She couldn't comment if the shooting is linked to gang activity.

FACEBOOK.COM

▶ Oudy Phrakonekham

Later Saturday afternoon, a 14-year-old boy was rushed to hospital in critical condition after being shot and found lying near Selkirk Avenue and Salter Street. By yesterday, his medical outlook had improved somewhat, said police.

Shortly after 1 a.m., a man, 21, was stabbed at a nightclub in the 500 block of Portage Avenue. Police were able to speak with him briefly and say he knew his attacker. He remained in hospital for treatment in stable condition.

The front parking lot of the Lincoln Motor Hotel on McPhillips Street became the next major crime scene just after 4:30 a.m. when a man was shot and killed there. Yesterday afternoon, police were still gathering evidence and didn't release many details of their investigation, including the dead man's age.

Anyone with information about the fatalities is asked to call the homicide squad at 986-6508. Major Crimes Unit cops are probing the teen's shooting and can be reached at 986-6219.

The downtown crime unit is handling the nightclub stabbing and are at are at 986-6668.

Reserve needs to be moved: Ottawa

It's going to cost millions and could take years, but Ottawa's special ministerial flood liaison says a chronically flooded native reserve in Manitoba must be permanently moved to higher ground.

Sid Dutchak said it's going to take time to relocate Lake St. Martin reserve — the hardest community hit in this year's flood — but there is no point in rebuilding some parts.

Flooding has destroyed homes and since the water is still high, he said many others are threatened by ice this winter.

"I don't see any choice," Dutchak said in an interview. "Some of that land always was low land and this year it's become more of a problem. It will never come back to being adequate."

Hundreds of residents of the northern reserve were evacuated from their homes in the spring and have been unable to return since. They are living scattered about Winnipeg in hotels while their children are also dispersed — some attending school in two church basements while others are enrolled in various schools around the city.

Aboriginal leaders have said the constant turmoil is taking its toll. Students have missed out on school and are being exposed to drugs, alcohol and gangs, they say. Residents are disconnected from each other and their traditional way of life.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Warming skeptic changes his tune

Study of world's surface temperatures took two years Was bankrolled by global-warming deniers

A prominent physicist and skeptic of global warming spent two years trying to find out if mainstream climate scientists were wrong. In the end, he determined they were right: Temperatures really are rising rapidly.

Richard Muller pursued long-held skeptic theories in analyzing the data. He was spurred to action because of "Climategate," a British scandal involving hacked emails of scientists.

1 C

Degrees that the study says the temperature of the world has risen since the 1950s.

Yet he found that the land is 1 degree Celsius warmer than in the 1950s. Those numbers from Muller, who works at the University of California, Berkeley, and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, match those by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA.

He said he went even further back, studying readings from Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. His ultimate finding of a warming world, to be presented at a conference today, is no different from what mainstream climate scientists have been saying for decades.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Occupy. Snow

▶ A snowman stands at the entrance to an Occupy Maine camp in Portland yesterday.

ALTAF QADRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Storm knocks out power to millions

More than three million customers in the U.S. Northeast were without power as an unseasonably early storm dumped heavy, wet snow over the weekend. More than 60 centimetres fell in some areas, with at least 11 deaths reported.

Feds were warned of hackers

Canada's spy agency warned the federal government they were under assault from hackers just weeks before an attack crippled computers.

The newly released assessment sounded the alarm about fake emails that shut down networks two months later.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Afghan mission a risk: PM

There is no way for Canadian soldiers to work in Afghanistan without "significant risks," Prime Minister Stephen Harper said yesterday in the wake of the death of a soldier.

With the combat mission over, Canada will remain in the country to train until 2014.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pundit dubs Ford the worst

A firestorm over a 911 call peppered with expletives has earned Toronto's embattled mayor Rob Ford a dubious honour south of the border.

U.S. political commentator Keith Olbermann called the mayor the "worst person in the world" on his Friday show.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kodak plays catch-up by pushing for patents

Nearly $3 billion in patent-licensing fees garnered over 3 years • Profit losses in six of last seven years

Picture this: Kodak — the company that invented the first digital camera in 1975, and developed the photo technology inside most cellphones and digital devices — is in the midst of the worst crisis in its 131-year history.

Eastman Kodak Co. is betting that a big cash infusion from the sale of 1,100 digital-imaging inventions will see it through a transition that has raised the spectre of bankruptcy.

Kodak popularized photography over a century ago. It marketed the world's first flexible-roll film in 1888 and transformed picture-taking into a mass commodity with the $1 Brownie camera in 1900.

DAVID DUPREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Kodak headquarters is shown in Rochester, N.Y., on Oct. 3.

But for too long it stayed firmly focused on its 20th-century cash cow, and failed to capitalize quickly in digital photography.

Kodak has been playing catch-up. Pummelled by Wall Street over its dwindling cash reserves — and its attempts to reinvent itself with digital imaging and printing — Kodak has been hawking the digital patents since July. "One thing I would stress is: It is our intention to retain a licence to any of the intellectual property we sell," says Kodak spokesman Gerard Meuchner. "It's like you sell the property but still get to live in the house."

Many financial analysts foresee the portfolio fetching $2 billion to $3 billion. But others think Kodak can haul in far more than that because of the high value of patents. Even a hefty return, skeptics counter, won't solve Kodak's struggle. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Panel inquiry may limit access to prized catch

Huge chinook salmon are the most prized catch on the Pacific coast for fishermen on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border, but they may soon have to share the bounty if a scientific panel links chinook and the survival of endangered southern resident killer whales. Dozens of studies and reports must be analyzed before a decision is made next year. Several studies indicate there's a link between poor survival of southern residents and low chinook abundance. Final recommendations could have implications on the lucrative fishery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 3 P.M. FRIDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 54.07 (12,519.51)	- 0.06¢ (100.82¢ US)
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Colombia	from 3.9 ¢/min	Mexico	from 1.9 ¢/min	U.A.E.	14.9 ¢/min
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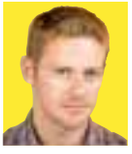

Two events occurred within minutes of each other early yesterday morning that illustrate the contradictory path our city is headed down.

In the first, a man was shot and killed in the parking lot of a hotel on McPhillips Street around 4:40 a.m.

At the exact same time an Air Canada flight was boarding the very first passengers to make use of our city's brand new airport terminal.

Now you might think these events are completely unrelated. But stick with me for a minute.

Our new airport is modern, spacious and technologically advanced. It's an impressive "front door" to our city, and it's symbolic of a growing sense of pride and optimism that's been stoked by the return of the NHL and the construction of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

"How is it that a city that seems to be on such an upswing — with a shiny new airport, national museum, hockey team and even a rapid transit line — can simultaneously be bucking a nation-wide trend toward lower homicide rates?"

"A first-class airport for a first-class city," I heard someone say.

Yet as soon as passengers get past the glimmering skylights and glitzy public art, they're going to walk by a newspaper box and read about how Winnipeg just tied its own record for the highest number of homicides in a single year.

Thirty-four people have been murdered in our city since January. And with two months left, we're all but certain to set a new mark for homicides.

How is it that a city that seems to be on such an upswing — with a shiny new airport, national museum, hockey team and even a rapid transit line — can simultaneously be bucking a nationwide trend toward lower homicide rates?

Is it possible that all the shiny new toys in town are masking some of our real, serious problems? After all, it's more fun to cut the ribbon on a fancy new development than cut the police tape on a crime scene.

Now, politicians at all levels certainly do talk about how public safety is their top priority. They hold news conferences where they make serious pledges to fight crime by adding more police officers, more technology or more recreational programming. But buying helicopters or soccer balls are random acts of publicity, not a cohesive crime-reduction strategy.

And unless our leaders — political, police, community, ethnic, recreational — can come together to find real solutions to our city's crime issues, many passengers at that sparkling new airport might just decide they're better off staying in the terminal.

Colin Fast is a corporate communicator who blogs about life in Winnipeg at policyfrog.com.

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

New tattooed Barbie: Bad influence or badass?

Local tweets

- **@Rheanne Marcoux:** Hunting down murder/shooting/stabbing sites this morning. Three of them. Get it together Winnipeg.
- **@AyeItsMerce:** I can hear my parents talking about buying a house in Winnipeg & moving there. Omg. I'm telling you two right now that I DON'T WANT to move.
- **@juanito69508j:** One more murder in #winnipeg and we tie the record. Loud chants of #gojetsgo are drowning out sounds of gunshots.
- **@vinceleewpg:** you know the #ywgairport new terminal is classy when juice and chocolate covered cherries are being served. #highclass #winnipeg
- **@YWGairport:** First passengers came through security at #winnipeg #airport.We're open! #ywg
- **@bPositiveCA:** At the "new" Winnipeg airport waiting 4 a flite 2 Calgary. Wow! This is great. Just another reason 2 be proud of this city.
- **@DWW_EZJets:** Hey Guys! So The Leafs Won! The Habs Won! The Sens Won! The CANUCKS CAPITALIZED The Caps! BUT WHY DIDNT WINNIPEG WIN????

Letters

RE: Confession: I have a thing for the GOP, published Oct. 27.

I am a fourth-year Simon Fraser University student taking a course that focuses on Canadian racism, classism and sexism. Mr. Mazerolle's column was used as an example of racism in the media in our class. In fact, his article was such a strong exemplar that it became the star of our class discussions addressing various aspects of racism, including what is called cultural racism and the homogenization of racism.

Cultural racism, also known as the "new racism" refers to individuals or groups of people making claims that particular ethnic groups are inferior based on their race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation and so on.

The article was culturally racist towards Americans (it offended the U.S. citizens in our class, regardless of their race, nationality, religion, gender, class, sexual orientation), Conservatives and Christians, who are part of a group that represents a 33,000-plus total number of "Christian" denominations.

MARYANNE, VANCOUVER

photo of the day

▶ This photo titled I Really Don't Like You, was submitted to the Moments of my Life category by vinny from Quebec.

Metro invites its readers to join the Metro Global Photo Challenge — running in 100 cities on four continents — to win fantastic prizes and worldwide recognition. Enter your digital photos at metrophotochallenge.com. The contest runs until Nov. 22. As well as a chance to win a trip to any city Metro publishes, one submission will also be featured here daily.

WEIRD NEWS

Even if you sell it, they will still come

The sprawling eastern Iowa cornfields made famous by the movie Field of Dreams are being sold to a company that will preserve the site's baseball legacy, the owners announced yesterday.

Don and Becky Lansing said they have accepted an offer from Mike and Denise Stillman and their company, Go the Distance Baseball LLC, which will develop the site near Dyersville as a baseball and softball complex.

"We worked hard to maintain its wholesome allure, and our success says a lot about our nation's love affair with its national pastime," Becky Lansing said in a statement. "It truly is a special place."

The land has been in Don Lansing's family since 1906. The couple put the property up for sale at $5.4 million US in May 2010. The parcel includes the two-bedroom house, baseball diamond, six other buildings and 193 acres — mostly cornfields — from the movie.

The Lansings said earlier this year that they had received several inquiries about the site but were committed to finding a buyer that would preserve its legacy. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Bikers and the Bard

Kim Coates might look the part of a gritty gang member, but The Sons of Anarchy actor loves Hamlet as much as his Harley Reveals what to expect on the second season of SOA

Kim Coates is so convincing on Sons of Anarchy that real-life bikers like to give him their opinion of the show.

Case in point. Coates was at the gym a few years ago when an ex-biker club member got right in his face.

"Listen man," Coates recalls the guy saying, "I'm not gonna pull any punches." Using colourful language, the biker went on to tell Coates that while he enjoyed his performance, he had problems with the show.

The 52-year-old actor calmly stood his ground. "I said to him, 'It's a TV show. Based on some truths, based on Hamlet metaphorically, but it's a TV show.'"

Maybe it was the Hamlet reference that soothed the dude. Maybe it was Coates' Harley out front. Whatever, Coates was able to make the case that he was "just trying to do a television show within the genre of the biker world."

Canadians who have not yet found the series on the Pay TV service Super Channel can catch up from the beginning when it premieres tomorrow night at 10 p.m. on FX Canada. The new Rogers-owned specialty channel launches tonight.

Coates loves being on Sons of Anarchy and is thrilled the series set an FX premiere ratings record when it returned in the U.S. last month for a fourth season. The Saskatchewan native has never been busier. Besides Sons of Anarchy, he was a familiar face on the just-finished HBO series Entourage.

HANDOUT

▶ Saskatchewan native Kim Coates has been busy lately with roles in Sons of Anarchy, the recently-ended HBO series Entourage and five different films.

Coates has roles in five films set to come out, including Sacrifice with Cuba Gooding, Jr., and A Little Help opposite Jenna Fischer (The Office). He was at the Toronto International Film Festival last month to promote the rowdy hockey movie Goon (co-written by Jay Baruchel). Seann William Scott, Alison Pill and Eugene Levy also have roles in the film, which will be released next year.

When not working, Coates feels at home on his Harley, a custom-built Wide Glide. "Got to kind of design it myself from Eagle Nest Harley in Sacramento," says Coates, one of only two SOA cast members with biker cred heading into the series.

Despite his onscreen image — often as the creep next door — in over 40 films, Coates is a pussycat himself, a dedicated family man married for 26 years with two grown daughters.

As for the Shakespeare metaphor, Coates is equally at home around Hamlet as he is on a Harley. He starred as Macbeth at Stratford when he was just 27 (singling out director Tom Kerr as "my mentor") and enjoyed a run on Broadway as Stanley Kowalski in A Streetcar Named Desire.

His love of theatre began at the University of Saskatchewan where he took a drama class "just for fun." He wound up doing play after play over four years, "an amazing learning ground for me."

He gets the Hamlet thing on SOA and credits series creator Kurt Sutter with turning this outlaw biker crew into compelling television. "Kurt's an amazing storyteller," says Coates.

"All I know is that things are happening this year. Stuff is going down"
KIM COATES ON THE UPCOMING SEASON OF SONS OF ANARCHY

There was one time when Coates felt Sutter made a wrong turn on the series. Without spoiling what happens in Season Two, there is a moment when Tig (Coates) gets cozy with Gemma (Katey Sagal), the wife of the club president, Clay (Perlman). Coates read the script, could not believe Tig would ever sneak around on Clay and demanded to see Sutter.

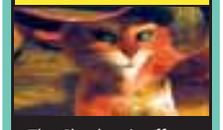
"Take a breath," Sutter told Coates, explaining that this is, after all, a tale of biker outlaws, a world of drugs, sex and rock 'n' roll. Gemma is lost and lonely and comes on to Tig. Tig is lost and lonely and responds. "You're not doing it out of anything with Clay," explained Sutter. "It's just a moment of two very wounded people coming together for some love, for something."

"All I know is that things are happening this year," says Coates. "Stuff is going down."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

2 scene

Box office



The Shrek spinoff Puss in Boots opened with an estimated $34 million to top the box office. The film proved a big draw outside of the Shrek franchise. Paranormal Activity came in the number two spot over the weekend. That film took in $18.5 million in its second week of release. The Rum Diary, starring Johnny Depp, opened weakly, earning just $5 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Protecting Lightfoot's legacy?

Rocker Dave Bidini writes book about Gordon Lightfoot without his involvement

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Dave Bidini is the author of Writing Gordon Lightfoot.

As soon as Dave Bidini put the word out that he was writing a book about Gordon Lightfoot, the stories started to pour in.

Bidini, the former Rheostatics singer, has plenty of friends in rock 'n' roll, and they had plenty of tangled yarns to spin about the 72-year-old Canuck singer for Writing Gordon Lightfoot.

Some were flattering, but most were definitely not.

"People would be like: 'I have a great Lightfoot story,' and it would inevitably turn out to be a horrible Lightfoot story," Bidini said in an interview last week at a Toronto café.

"There's a book that could come out for sure that would just be about that, just be about him being a mean drunk and a bad husband ... But if you put too many episodes in a book like that, that's all people are going to take away from it, and I wanted people to come away with a fuller impression of who the person was, about this life lived in Canadian music.

"I wanted people to come away with a fuller impression of who the person was."
AUTHOR DAVE BIDINI

"And actually one of the things I say in the book is I sort of approach Gord and I say: 'I hope you're grateful that it's me writing the book and not some muckraking journalist.'"

That Bidini wanted to protect Lightfoot's legacy — or at least his dignity — might imply some sort of friendly relationship between the two Canadian rockers.

But in fact, Bidini says that Lightfoot refused to be interviewed for the book despite his persistent requests.

In the text, Bidini offers a couple of theories for Lightfoot's non-participation. Years ago, the Rheostatics covered The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald, and Bidini and his bandmates thought the Orillia, Ont., country-folk legend might have liked their version.

So they directed it to Lightfoot's manager at the time, Barry Harvey, who has since died. Bidini remembers Harvey telling him that he wouldn't give the song to Lightfoot because it would just annoy the singer. The group was disappointed, and some time later, Bidini slighted Lightfoot in an interview, suggesting that the Canuck icon had swiped the melody for Fitzgerald from an old Irish folk tune (Bidini himself heard this rumour at a pub in Cork, Ireland). Harvey asked for a retraction and Bidini agreed, but says that once the comments had hit the Internet, it was too late.

So, the two artists weren't exactly friends. Still, Bidini believes the primary reason Lightfoot didn't want to participate in the book is that the songwriting stalwart simply has no interest in revisiting the still-tender wounds of his past.

And Writing Gordon Lightfoot does zero in on a particularly difficult period in his career. The book is structured around the events of one week in July 1972, when some of the biggest names in music — including Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Joni Mitchell and, yes, Lightfoot — descended on tiny Toronto Island to make surprise appearances at the Mariposa Folk Festival.

At the time, the book says, Lightfoot had been forced to curtail his touring schedule due to Bell's palsy, which had temporarily left his face partially paralyzed, his first marriage was crumbling (he would divorce in '73), and he was dating Cathy Smith — the same woman who would later serve time in a California prison for injecting actor John Belushi with a fatal dose of heroin and cocaine in 1982.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eugenides tired of the autobiographical questions

Superstar author Jeffrey Eugenides is getting weary of questions about whether his new book, The Marriage Plot, is autobiographical.

"It's incredibly fatiguing. It happens with every novel, no matter what you write about," the 51-year-old said during an interview this week.

Eugenides burst onto the scene in 1993 with his acclaimed debut The Virgin Suicides, which was later made into a much-discussed film by Sofia Coppola. His next novel, 2002's Middlesex, vaulted him into the literary stratosphere. A stunningly imaginative and expansive tale about a male hermaphrodite, the book won the Pulitzer Prize, was chosen as an Oprah selection and had legions of readers clamouring to see what the rock-star writer would do next.

They had to wait nine years to find out, but were rewarded this month with Eugenides' latest novel, The Marriage Plot, which follows a love triangle between English major Madeleine and two fellow male students at Brown University (the author's alma mater) in the early 1980s.

In the beleaguered world of publishing, the book's release was a joyous event. A billboard of Eugenides went up in Times Square. A launch party in New York City attracted literary heavyweights Jonathan Franzen, Martin Amis and Zadie Smith.

The Marriage Plot was soon lauded as another highly erudite, yet eminently readable offering from Eugenides.

Still, much of the media coverage has been pre-occupied with whether it is autobiographical.

Did Eugenides base the character of Mitchell Grammaticus on himself (both are from Detroit and of Greek descent)? Does the Brown setting reflect the author's time at the school? And is the character of manic-depressive biologist Leonard Bankhead based on the late author David Foster Wallace (with whom Eugenides had a passing acquaintance)?

Eugenides, an instructor at Princeton University, can't seem to escape the speculation.

"Last time I wrote about someone who was intersex and I would still get the autobiographical question even though it's obviously about as imaginative a leap as I can make," said the author, who lives in New Jersey with his wife and daughter.

"Now, I'm getting it again. You get it with everything you write. That's how people read. We all do it to a certain extent.

"But people need to understand that you obviously draw from your life in order to write a novel, so there are going to be many things that resemble the writer's experience. But what happens in a novel is very different than what happens in a writer's life."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEL EVANS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Author Jeffrey Eugenides poses at his home in Princeton, N.J., in September.

Hurry up and write

- During his media rounds, Eugenides has also faced repeated questions about the extended period of time it takes him to write each book.
- The author says he can usually tell after about 150 pages whether he wants to move forward with a new project.
- The kernel of The Marriage Plot, he said, came about when he was taking a break from Middlesex in the late 1990s and began writing a story about a débutante party. He abandoned that manuscript, but the character of Madeleine stuck with him, eventually jumping into the pages that would become The Marriage Plot.

JOHN CARUCCI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Metallica members James Hetfield, left, and Lars Ulrich, right, pose with musician Lou Reed.

Lou Reed on an album with Metallica: You better believe it

Metallica and the word "scared" don't usually go together.

But fear was one of the emotions that band members felt when they began work on their latest album, Lulu, a collaboration with Lou Reed that will be released tomorrow.

"That was scary, but it was also so exciting to think, 'Is he going to tell us what to play? Are we going to know what to play? Is he going to start singing randomly? Should we figure out some parts?'" lead singer James Hetfield said in an interview. "We have had many different ways of recording, and this is yet another new way for us."

Reed and Metallica, both members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, first performed together at the hall's 25th-anniversary concerts in 2009. They found that they had amazing chemistry together.

That chemistry prompted them to go into the studio together, but the concept for the album started as a work that was the brainchild of Reed, based on the Lulu plays (Earth Spirit and Pandora's Box) written by Frank Wedekind.

"This was the template from God," Reed explained in an interview last week with Hetfield and Lars Ulrich.

"It was written for a play in Berlin, for the Berlin Ensemble Theatre. It was done there as a soundscape surrounded by various electronics. I lifted the whole thing, since it is mine, and brought it over to them and turned them loose on it so that on top of the electronics, (it) became Metallica."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Time for Avril to Let Go?

Avril Lavigne experiencing dwindling Canadian crowds, sales

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Avril Lavigne arrives on the red carpet during the 2011 MuchMusic Video Awards in Toronto in June.

Midway through a sparsely attended arena gig in Toronto last week, Avril Lavigne paused between songs to express her joy at playing "so close to home," in her "beautiful" native country.

She had just finished singing Alice, and it was the first time in the evening she unleashed the full power of her vocal instrument, allowing her voice to billow and soar into every corner of the Air Canada Centre.

And it couldn't have been easy to fill all that empty space.

See, it's not just the Canadian weather that might have felt chilly to Lavigne, who grew up in Napanee, Ont., but moved to Los Angeles years ago. To hear her tell it, this cross-country trek was a triumphant homecoming, the first since her latest album dropped in March, so where were the adoring crowds to cheer her on?

A reported audience of 6,800 fans showed up to her gig at the Air Canada Centre, which can hold 15,800 fans for a concert. Her shows across the country reported similarly anemic turnouts, while the reviews varied from tepid to scathing — a representative notice from one newspaper compared her lifeless performance to that of a zombie.

6X

Let Go attained diamond certification in Canada and went six times platinum in the U.S.

And considering that Lavigne's latest — Goodbye Lullaby — has failed to generate a fraction of the interest as her previous disc, there's no shortage of speculation that the pop-punk princess's reign could be coming to an end.

"She's having a difficult time making the transition from being a skater girl to being a 27-year-old woman," said Alan Cross, Metro Canada columnist and host of the syndicated radio show The Secret History of Rock. "It's very tough to grow with your audience. ... The next year is going to be very important if she's going to be able to make the transition.

"I mean, she's far from dead. But it may take a little time for the new Avril to take root."

And at this point, it's not exactly clear who the new Avril is.

She burst onto the scene less than a decade ago with 2002's hit-laden Let Go, providing a so-called edgy alternative to the dolled-up pop strumpets who were shifting the bar of good taste ever-lower and climbing ever-higher on the charts in the process (Lavigne's first album arrived in the one-year period between two video hallmarks for lowest-common-denominator pop pandering: Britney Spears' I'm a Slave 4 U and Christina Aguilera's Dirrty.)

A then-17-year-old Lavigne had a stylistic hook (ties and tank-tops), a strong voice and a bundle of super-catchy pop tunes stained by just a speck of punk grime — Ramona imitating the Ramones.

After Let Go, Avril's next two albums — 2004's Under My Skin and 2007's The Best Damn Thing — brought diminishing returns commercially but still went platinum a combined seven times over in Canada.

And that, perhaps, is when Lavigne's career started to slide. There was a lengthy four-year break between albums, during which time Lavigne divorced husband (and Sum 41 frontman) Deryck Whibley and changed her management, switching from Vancouver-based Nettwerk to a representation based closer to home in L.A.

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I'm not gay: Kelly Clarkson

Singer opens up about her sexual orientation and dating on talk show

Kelly Clarkson is setting the record straight about being straight.

Despite speculation running rampant for years, the singer wants to clarify that she is not a lesbian.

"I've dated some cool guys, but I don't know if I've dated someone where I could spend my whole life with them."
KELLY CLARKSON

"I'm from a small town, so everyone's married with children or about to have children," she says during a visit to The View.

"That's why people think I'm gay — because they're like, 'why aren't you married?' And I'm like, 'It doesn't happen for everyone right off the bat!'"

Plus, she says she hasn't had the easiest time finding the right guy.

"The last date I went on was horrible, so I'd like to go on a good date." METRO

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Kelly Clarkson

PATTINSON A MARRIED MAN?

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

In honour of Halloween, let's check in with vampire-in-chief Robert Pattinson, shall we? (Tune in tomorrow for an update on director of zombie special projects Lindsay Lohan — we just couldn't handle her today.)

While promoting Breaking Dawn: Part 1 at a press conference over the weekend, Pattinson speculated that he and costar/girlfriend Kristen Stewart may already be married. "The wedding scene's funny because we used a real priest," the actor said, according to UsMagazine.com.

"So technically we are already married because he did all the things you would do in a normal ceremony. So we don't have a civil union in law, but I guess in the church we are actually married."

▶ Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart

We suspect the church wouldn't agree, but then again, it's not really our go-to marriage dictionary these days.

If someone united Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt in holy-hell matrimony, no doubt they'd sign off on this one.

TODAY'S THE WORD WAS WRITTEN BY MONICA WEYMOUTH

Nicki Minaj and her maid get into it

▶ Nicki Minaj

Police were called to respond to something of a domestic disturbance after singer Nicki Minaj got in an argument with a housekeeper, according to TMZ.

Minaj had previously fired a maid who worked at her home, then grew upset upon seeing the woman returning to work Friday, insisting she leave.

When the maid said she would not be "treated like an animal," Minaj reportedly flew into a rage, shouting.

"I'll show you how to treat someone like an animal. Get the f— out of my house."

It turns out, however, that it was a different maid and not the one she'd previously let go. METRO

JT to lay low

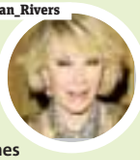
Justin Timberlake might be avoiding the spotlight for a little while, he warns.

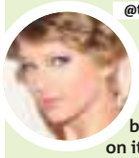
"I've spent a lot of time feeling like I needed to validate so much of who I was by what I did," he tells Esquire magazine. "I think you can work and work and work and never really live." So what is Timberlake planning to do instead?

"The plan is to have no plan," he says. "I'll probably travel, but I'd rather be spontaneous. I feel like I've earned at least a little bit of time to do that." METRO

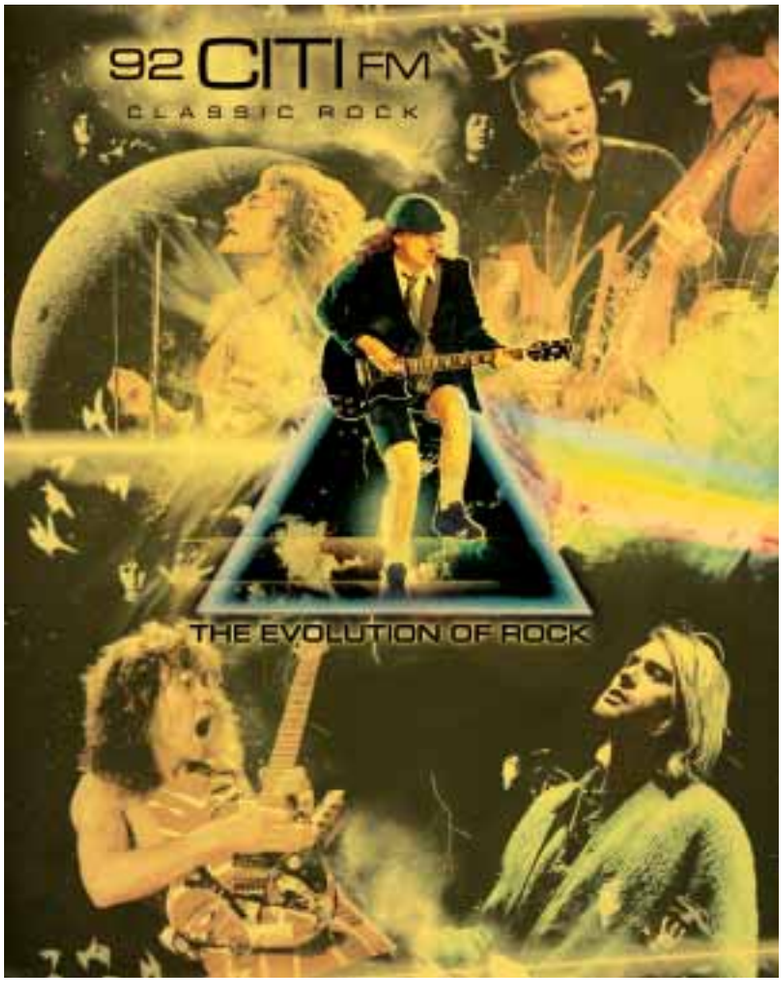
Celebrity tweets

@SteveMartinToGo
Bad dog! BAD DOG! (my dog reads twitter)


@Joan_Rivers
A coroner revealed that Amy Winehouse was more than five times over the legal alcohol limit, or as Lindsay Lohan calls it, "sober."


@taylorswift13
to me, relaxation = a shirt with a bunch of cats on it

@ActuallyNPH
I just woke up. My head is pounding. My toilet is filled with gold! What just happened?



3 life

Keep it sweet but healthy

Candy isn't the only thing kids can accumulate during Halloween ◗ Cavities and extra pounds from all the candy are also common ◗ Try these tricks for preventing health issues

CHARLIE LITCHFIELD, IDAHO PRESS-TRIBUNE/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Dentists and dieticians say you can make Halloween reasonably healthy for kids without resorting to tactics like no candy.

Offer apples to trick-or-treaters and risk having your house get egged — maybe even by your own kids.

But dentists and dietitians say you can still make Halloween reasonably healthy for little devils and witches without resorting to dracul-onian tactics, like no candy.

"This is such a big adventure for them — let them have it, obviously with some caveats," said Dr. Rhea Haugseth, a dentist in Marietta, Ga., who's president of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

Haugseth also suggests avoiding cavity-promoting treats like caramels that stick to the teeth, or lollipops that bathe teeth in a long sugary bath.

Also, having kids brush their teeth before trick-or-treating to helps reduce plaque and bacteria, which interact with sugar to produce tooth-decaying acid, Haugseth said. Kids should also brush right after eating candy, she said.

Just don't go overboard on restrictions, says Cole Robbins, a Chicago 12-year-old and Halloween veteran. "Halloween is the one day of the year where we kids just kind of break out and overload on candy," he said.

To help prevent that kind of gorging, try to give children a healthy, filling meal before trick-or-treating, says Bethany Thayer, a spokeswoman for the American Dietetic Association who works at the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit.

Ronni Litz Julien, a Miami nutritionist whose patients include overweight and obese kids, says another trick for parents is to help sort through the loot, have kids select their 10 favourite pieces, and give the rest away. Offer the choice of eating all 10 pieces at once, or over 10 days. That gives them a sense of control, without feeling shortchanged, she said.

"You can't deprive them. It's Halloween, for God's sake," she said.

President Barack Obama joked last week on The Tonight Show that he'd warned his health-promoting wife that the White House would get egged if she gave trick-or-treaters fresh fruit and raisins instead of candy.

Dr. Janet Silverstein, a Gainesville, Fla. pediatrician and member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' nutrition committee, says she doesn't give out candy, offering fruit or pencils instead; so far her house is unscathed.

When her own children were young, Silverstein would buy their candy for a nickel a piece. She recommends that to her patients' parents, too. Though she doesn't offer her other solution — she used to eat her kids' candy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parent tricks

Try these tips for keeping Halloween fun without cavities or extra pounds.

- **Dark chocolate**
  Start by handing out dark chocolate instead of chewy candies. The chewy variety is likely to get stuck in teeth and stay there. Some studies have suggested dark chocolate is good for the heart.
- **Toys**
  Try bribing your kids with a new toy in exchange for the Halloween loot — or at least some of it.
- **Wait**
  Ask your kids not to dip into their loot bags until they bring the entire stash home. This trick ensures both safety so you can toss any suspicious-looking candy, but it also prevents an "eating frenzy" — and the stomach aches.

Sweet choices

A British Columbia-based dietitian has helpful hints about the chocolate choices parents will have to make this Halloween.

Gloria Tsang says all parents need to do is look at the list of ingredients on mass-produced chocolate bars. Tsang says if parents don't know how to pronounce the name of an ingredient, that product might not be the best choice.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Will Halloween play a trick on your kids' health? Dental hygiene is key concern.

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Tasty treats to make them scream — with sheer delight

Still looking for last minute Halloween treat ideas? Try these Bog Bars

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This recipe serves 16.

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

The beauty of Halloween treats is that you don't have to worry about making them pretty. In fact, the uglier they are, the better. And that was the inspiration for this baked treat.

The Bog Bars start as a basic blondie-like bar studded with dried cherries. Then you smear melted chocolate over the top and start dumping delicious things all over them.

The gummy worms and pretzels are a particularly nice touch, resembling the snakes and twigs one surely encounters during midnight swamp strolls.

Bog Bars Preparation:

1. Coat a 33-x-23-cm (13-x9-inch) pan with cooking spray; set aside. In a microwave-safe dish, combine cherries and juice. Microwave on high until bubbling, about 1 minute. Set aside to cool.
2. In the bowl of an electric mixer, cream together butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, scraping bowl between additions. Stir in vanilla. Add flour and salt and mix just until combined. Drain reserved cherries, then add them and half of the broken chocolate cookies.
3. Spoon mixture into prepared pan and bake in 180 C (350 F) oven for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden and set.
4. While bars are still hot, sprinkle milk chocolate bits over surface. Let melt. Use back of a spoon to spread melted chocolate to cover the surface. Sprinkle with broken graham crackers, marshmallows, pretzels, gummy worms, remaining chocolate cookies and pieces of fruit roll-ups. Let cool.

Ingredients:

- 500 ml (2 cups) dried cherries
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) apple or orange juice
- 175 ml (3/4 cup or 1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter
- 550 ml (2 1/4 cups) packed brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 5 ml (1 tsp) vanilla extract
- 550 ml (2 1/4 cups) all-purpose flour
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) salt
- 16 chocolate sandwich cookies, broken into pieces
- 340 g (12 oz) milk chocolate bits
- 2 graham crackers, broken
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) mini marshmallows
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) broken pretzel sticks
- Handful gummy worms
- 2 green fruit roll-ups, torn into pieces

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rose Reisman's Swap It

While Halloween is normally a time for candy, some parents choose other treats such as the Trick or Treat McDonald's Happy Meal. However, the alternative can lead to a scary amount of calories and sodium.

MCDONALD'S CHEESEBURGER WITH SMALL FRIES AND 1% CHOCOLATE MILK (250 ML)

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SWAP IT!

MCDONALD'S CHEESEBURGER WITH APPLE DIPPERS AND APPLE JUICE (9 OZ.)

480 CALORIES/ 13 GM FAT/ 6 GM SATURATED FAT/ 810 MG SODIUM

MAKE HALLOWEEN HEALTHIER BY SWAPPING FRIES FOR APPLES AND CHOCOLATE MILK FOR JUICE [FOR MORE, VISIT ROSEREISMAN.COM]

The only thing better than a witch's cauldron on Halloween is a sweet witch's cauldron that you can eat

Nothing says dessert like these chocolate and cherry filled mini cauldrons. Be sure to hit the bulk food store for some wacky Halloween candy to fill up this dessert. You'll have kids big and small wanting to help "stir the pot".

Witch's Cauldron Preparation:

1. Prepare patty shells according to package directions. Set aside.
2. Fill each patty shell cauldron with chocolate pudding prepared as per serving directions and cherry pie filling.
3. To make the cauldron handle, take a length of black licorice twist and insert each end into the cauldron. Insert a pretzel for the cauldron spoon.
4. Add your choice of ghoulish worms, brains or any other Halloween candy. For optional eyeballs, plop one or two coated almonds in the cauldron, affixing a mini chocolate chip with frosting.
5. For the base, cut chocolate sippers into short lengths to resemble logs and arrange on a platter or plate. Add some red and orange mini candy-coated chocolates and/or cinnamon hearts to mimic burning embers.
6. Place completed cauldrons on top of the fire and present the devilishly delicious brew to young guests. ● EMILY RICHARDS/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ TENDERFLAKE

Ingredients:

- 6 frozen patty shells (1 300-g pkg)
- 1 pkg (113 g) instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1 can (540 ml/19 oz) cherry pie filling (625 ml/2 1/2 cups)
- 6 black 12-cm (5-inch) licorice twists
- 6 thin pretzel sticks
- Gummies, including worms, brains and frogs
- 6 to 8 yogurt-coated almonds
- 10 chocolate sippers
- Mini candy-coated chocolates (separate red and orange)
- Cinnamon hearts
- Small amount vanilla frosting (for optional eyeball)
- Mini chocolate chips (for optional eyeball)

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

▶ This recipe makes six servings.

Soy-stainable furniture

Grain farmers showing how soy can be used in different ways **Trying to educate people about their options**

BEN KNIGHT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK PHOTOS

Canada is finding new uses for its bountiful grain harvests.

Soy beans. Food, fuel … furniture?

This past weekend, at the International Home Show in Toronto, the Grain Farmers of Ontario presented a special display of furniture and other home decor items — the key ingredient of which is leftover grains.

"We have furniture made from soy-based foam," says Meghan Burke, GFO communications coordinator. "It's called Bio-Plush foam. We also have carpeting made from corn oil, and soy-based paint on the walls. We have a countertop made of corn. Anything you can think of, really, made from corn or soy beans."

The furniture — including big, cushy reclining chairs — still has all the usual wood or metal components. But the foam in the cushions is something altogether new.

"It's very nice and very comfortable," she explains. "What we're basically doing is replacing the petroleum-oil portion with a soy-based oil. So it's just like any other foam, but is has no off-gassing, no allergens, it's renewable, it's decomposable, it's really healthy for your environment."

It's a pure case of need meets opportunity. Agricultural organizations across Canada are always looking for new markets, and there's a rising consumer demand for cleaner, greener products.

"We want to educate people about the options they have for their homes," says Burke. "People are looking for greener, sustainable, healthy options for their homes. And with that trend growing and growing, more companies are picking this up. We have quite a list of suppliers that have given us products for the exhibit."

"We want to educate people about the options they have for their homes."
MEGHAN BURKE, GFO COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

And while the GFO's efforts are primarily an Ontario initiative, building a new market for the province's 28,000 corn, wheat and soy bean farmers, these special grain-based products are gaining in popularity, and becoming available throughout Canada.

"The carpeting you can buy at Home Depot, or anywhere you can buy a carpet. The paint is Sherwyn-Williams. All these things are fairly common at your typical home stores."

The deeper message? Canada's bountiful grain harvests can solve a lot more problems than hunger and fuel efficiency.

"There are opportunities for your home that are environmentally friendly, and they are great alternatives to your petroleum-based products."

For more information, visit gfo.ca and bioplush.com.

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Made in Canada, these garment racks are perfect for any venue that requires a place for patrons to hang their jackets. Hotels, banquet halls, schools, hospitals and restaurants, virtually any venue in our cold climate can benefit from using Mobile Garment Racks.

The racks are equipped with castors so they can easily tuck away in a corner when not in use, and the best part is that they can also be folded down flat and stacked for easy storage.

Constructed out of premium steel, these racks can also be attached together, up to three in a row.

Contact: sales@mobilegarmentracks.com or (204) 960-9596
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EMBRACE GREEN BURIALS

I recently attended a funeral in Cobourg, Ont., where the cemetery conducts natural burials. What exactly makes a burial natural or green? ***Tamara of Toronto, ON***

QUEEN OF GREEN

LINDSAY COULTER
GREEN@METRONEWS.CA

When it comes to planning the end, there are greener ways to go.

You visited one of only two cemeteries in Canada with designated green sites; the Union Cemetery in Cobourg, Ont., and Royal Oak Burial Park in Victoria, B.C.

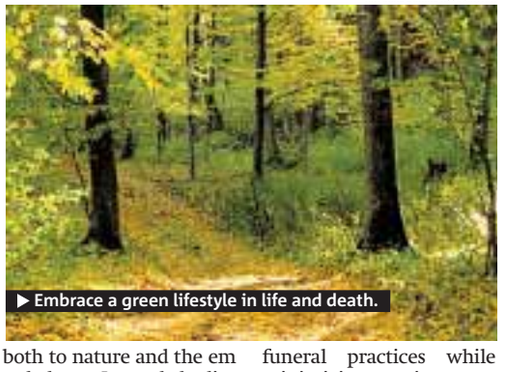
At both, you can return to the Earth naturally with a green burial.

Green burials are low-impact, use less energy, consume fewer resources (like water), are less toxic, and may include local, sustainable materials.

Bodies are not embalmed because that delays decomposition.

Without formaldehyde to preserve the body, toxic chemicals are avoided, reducing harmful exposure to both to nature and the em

NATURAL BURIAL ASSOCIATION



Embrace a green lifestyle in life and death.

balmer. Instead, bodies are wrapped in a biodegradable shroud or placed in a biodegradable casket. And protected green space becomes the final resting place. To learn more, check out the Natural Burial Association's website. (naturalburialassoc.ca)

Although only two cemeteries can perform green burials in Canada, green funerals are increasing in popularity. A green funeral means funeral homes aim to maximize environmentally friendly funeral practices while minimizing environmental impact.

For example, they may distribute brochures on 100 per cent recycled content paper or maintain their grounds without toxic pesticides.

They might also offer sustainable and biodegradable shrouds, caskets or urns.

And forget the silk flowers — use only native plants on these gravesites.

David Suzuki Foundation

Crying Over hurdles not Sergio's style

Former Platinum Blonde rocker has overcome life's roadblocks with a Doesn't Really Matter attitude

TURNING POINT

TERESA KRUZE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

He's an international rock star, designer, architect and builder. With so much success, you would expect Sergio Galli would wear his accomplishments like a badge of honour. But he doesn't. Sergio is a down to earth, humble man with a simple message for us all: accept life's turning points and when things get tough, move on.

"I get over discouragement in life because I know it's temporary. Some people think it's forever. I say, 'Why waste your time? Get over it'."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Sergio Galli circa 1984 performing with Platinum Blonde.

Sergio was 18 when he started his own business building and renting P.A. systems for bands.

He ran into Mark Holmes who was looking to put together a new band. Sergio played guitar, Mark found a drummer and within six months Galli and the band hit it big. Platinum Blonde went on to become one of the top glam-bands of the '80s.

Hits like Crying Over You and Situation Critical rocketed to the top of the charts.

As Galli and the boys would roll through the great cities of Europe, he would make the limo drivers stop in front of unique buildings that caught his attention.

"I was so into architecture. They used to rib me but they thought it was neat someone could be into something other than music."

Seven years passed and the band realized they were burnt out and needed a break. Galli wanted to go back to school but was turned down at every University he applied to. Sergio "got over it", bought a couple of properties and began building. His work became noticed in the industry and soon he was building multi-million dollar homes. Now he has teamed with The Serena Group to build affordable, luxurious villas. Galli is living life on his terms.

Platinum Blonde recently got back together and decided 20 years was enough of a break. Sergio and Platinum Blonde are currently in the recording studio and are hoping to start touring again next summer.

"You have to enjoy the journey along the way. Nothing happens overnight. Remember to have fun and if you do then success will come."

Sergio's secrets

Sergio Galli's keys to life and business

- **Success** Enjoy the journey and don't think about the money or the outcome.
- **Idea** Come up with a plan and follow through with it.
- **Attitude** Be positive and move on from disappointments.
- **Execution** Just get out and do it. Be positive.
- **Fun** Enjoy yourself. If you do, success and money will come.

PROVIDED

▶ These days Sergio is a successful home builder who has recently reunited with his bandmates in hopes of touring next summer.

Rock royalty

History of Platinum Blonde

- **Formed in 1983** Mark Holmes (vocals), Sergio Galli (guitar), Chris Steffler (drums), Kenny MacLean (bass) (1956-2008)
- **Standing in the Dark** (1984) Triple Platinum
  Singles: Doesn't Really Matter
- **Alien Shores** (1985) Quintuple Platinum
  Singles: Situation Critical, Crying Over You, Somebody Somewhere
- **Contact** (1987) Double Platinum
- Inducted into the Music and Broadcast Industry Hall of Fame on March 12, 2010. **SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA**

A shoe-in for success

BOOK REVIEW

CRAIG LUND
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

There are very few companies out there that can boast billion dollar sales figures. Now review that list against companies that have hit that revenue milestone in less than 10 years and you come up with a far shorter list which includes a company called Zappos, the world's friendliest (and biggest) online shoe retailer.

According to Joseph A. Michelli, author of The Zappos Experience, Zappos became a billion dollar company by creating a killer customer service approach and at the same time developed a work culture where "being a little weird is part of the core values" of the company. Former COO and CFO Alfred Lin comments that the Zappos Experience is "about getting the culture right so we can treat the customer right." This approach has clearly paid off with the company named by J.D. Powers and Associates as a 2011 Customer Service Champion.

The concept of Zappos was born due to a frustrated consumer. Nick Swinmurn couldn't find a certain size shoe which prompted him to consider if an online strategy could be used to solve this dilemma. From that he created ShoeSite.com. Recognizing the need for capital, Swinmurn approached Tony Hsieh & Alfred Lin of Investment firm Venture Frogs with his idea. Even in the 1999 boom of the Dot Com era one would have questioned the concept. After all, "Who would buy shoes at an Internet Store without trying them on?" alludes Michelli.

Michelli's book looks at the five principles that he found to be the foundation of Zappos' success. If you're looking at how to assess and improve your customer service approach, The Zappos Experience serves the perfect fit.

CRAIG LUND, IS THE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING SERVICES FIRM MARKETING TALENT INC. AND CAN BE REACHED AT CLUND@MARKETINGTALENTINC.COM OR ON TWITTER @CRAIGLUND

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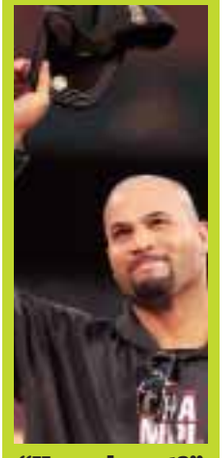
4 sports

Quoted



"Hey, why not?"

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS STAR ALBERT PUJOLS, WHEN ASKED IF HE WOULD BE BACK FOR ANOTHER CELEBRATION NEXT SEASON AFTER A PARADE YESTERDAY TO COMMEMORATE THE TEAM'S WORLD SERIES VICTORY OVER THE TEXAS RANGERS. PUJOLS IS A FREE AGENT FOR THE FIRST TIME AND IT ISN'T CLEAR IF THE MID-MARKET CARDINALS WILL BE ABLE OR WILLING TO SIGN HIM.

Scan code for more sports news.

Vexed by Tom no more

By keeping ball out of his hands, Steelers beat Patriots' Brady for only the second time in his career ◐ Roethlisberger has a big day

JARED WICKERHAM/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Antonio Brown of the Pittsburgh Steelers dives into the end zone to score a touchdown against the New England Patriots.

25	17
STEELERS	PATRIOTS

The Pittsburgh Steelers found a way to beat Tom Brady: Don't let him get the ball.

Ben Roethlisberger passed for 365 yards and two touchdowns and the Steelers finally solved their Brady problem with an emphatic 25-17 victory over New England yesterday.

Roethlisberger completed 36 of 50 passes and led the Steelers (6-2) on a series of clock-chewing drives, effectively keeping Brady and the NFL's top-ranked offence off the field. Pittsburgh held the ball for more than 39 minutes and survived a late rally to win its fourth straight following a 2-2 start.

Brady passed for two touchdowns but threw for a season-low 198 yards and couldn't get into any sort of rhythm while losing to the Steelers for just the second time in his career.

The Patriots (5-2) drew within six when Brady hit Aaron Hernandez for a one-yard touchdown pass with 2:35 remaining, but a last-gasp drive ended when Brady was sacked and the ball rolled out of the end zone for a safety with eight seconds to play.

It may be October, but the game had a January feel, and it wasn't just the chilly conditions.

The defending AFC champions pointed to the matchup as a litmus test after a sluggish — by the franchise's lofty standards — start. Were they the "old, slow" bunch that looked overmatched in losses to Baltimore and Houston or were they simply taking their time getting started?

The answer, it appears, is the latter, even if the Steelers solved Brady using un-Steelerlike methods.

Rather than pound away with running back Rashard Mendenhall, Roethlisberger — who never met a deep ball he didn't like to throw — did his best Brady imitation, moving the chains with a controlled passing attack that took yardage in small bits.

The Steelers didn't complete a pass over 26 yards. They didn't have to. Roethlisberger consistently found Antonio Brown (a career-high nine receptions), Heath Miller (a season-high seven grabs) and speedster Mike Wallace (seven catches) on short and intermediate routes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fitzpatrick leads Bills to victory in Toronto

23	0
BILLS	REDSKINS

Ryan Fitzpatrick showed yesterday why the Buffalo Bills felt he was worth $59 million US.

Fitzpatrick threw two TD strikes to Scott Chandler as Buffalo beat the Washington Redskins 23-0 for its first regular-season win of the Bills Toronto Series.

The resurgent Bills (5-2) improved to 3-3 in Toronto but are just 1-3 in regular-season contests.

Buffalo hasn't made the NFL playoffs since 1999 but last week signed Fitzpatrick to a $59-million, six-year contract extension. The deal includes $24 million guaranteed and makes Fitzpatrick the highest-paid player in club history.

Not bad for a Harvard grad and '05 seventh-round pick who spent his first four NFL seasons with St. Louis and Cincinnati before landing in Buffalo in 2009. Fitzpatrick, 28, has flourished with the Bills, going 9-5 in his last 14 games.

Yesterday's contest was the sixth of eight Buffalo will play here through next season as part of the series. The attendance was 51,579, meaning none of the games have been a sellout at Rogers Centre, which seats 54,000 for football.

For the first time in the series fans were vocally pro Bills, actually giving Buffalo the feel of home-field advantage. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Playoff race red hot as CFL enters its final week

A Calgary Stampeders win that came down to the final seconds over the defending Grey Cup champion Montreal Alouettes has set up a wild final week of CFL play in both the East and West divisions.

Drew Tate passed for 330 yards and a pair of touchdowns to Johnny Forzani in a 32-27 victory over the Alouettes yesterday afternoon. The win made Tate 2-0 since he replaced 2010 CFL Outstanding Player Henry Burris as the starting quarterback.

The result left five of the eight teams with identical 10-7 records going into the last weekend of regular season play, with Calgary in a tie with B.C. and Edmonton in the West and Montreal deadlocked with Winnipeg in the East.

"It was a huge win because we're still in the chase," said Tate. "You play five months and it all comes down to this one last game, but this is the position we want to be in.

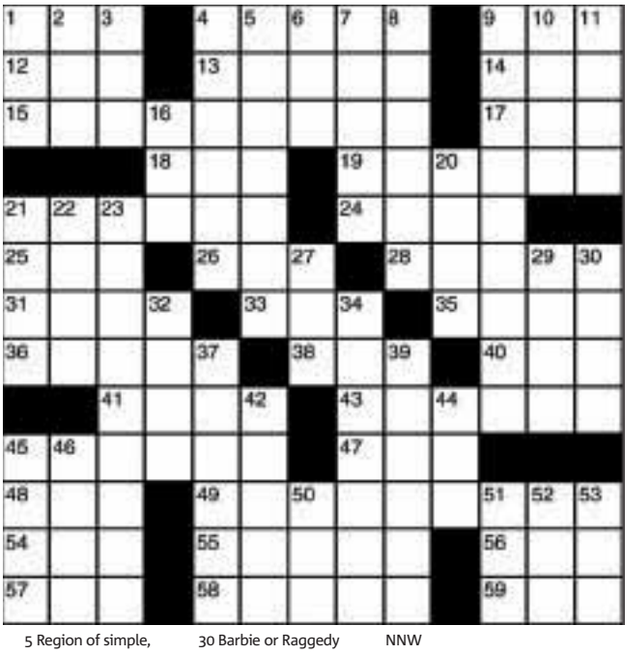
"We're in a one-week season now. We're focused on who we have to play now."

The Stampeders, who close the season Saturday at home against Winnipeg, must win and have both the Lions and Eskimos lose their games to claim first place and the bye into the West final because they have lost the season series to both rivals.

Montreal needs to win in B.C. on Saturday night and have the Blue Bombers lose to get top spot in the East for a fourth straight year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crossword



Across

1 That guy
4 Actor Malcolm- — Warner
9 Throng
12 Historic time
13 Give a speech
14 Lawyers' org.
15 Mexican street musicians
17 Deteriorate
18 "CSI" evidence
19 Easter bouquet
21 Insist on
24 Racetrack tipster
25 Greek H
26 Pick a target
28 Water nymph
31 The Red Planet
33 Curved line
35 Knob on a shield
36 Of a pelvic bone
38 Weep loudly
40 Right angle
41 Guitarist Lofgren
43 Tidbit
45 Slanted typeface
47 — choy
48 Wicked
49 Showy yellow flowers
54 Anger
55 Buckwheat pancakes
56 "Of course"
57 "Mayday!"
58 Marsh plant
59 Ram's mate

Down

1 Height of fashion?
2 Gershwin brother
3 Scratch
4 "AbFab" actress Lumley
5 Region of simple, quiet pleasure
6 — -jongg
7 Cockeyed
8 Injury
9 Eastern Canadian provinces
10 Reed instrument
11 Dugout supply
16 Greek mountain
20 Waikiki wingding
21 Actress Moore
22 And others (Lat.)
23 Tenderizing sauces
27 "— Doubtfire"
29 Competent
30 Barbie or Raggedy Ann
32 Take to the seas
34 Barbershop treatment
37 Goes up
39 Dance to rock music
42 Weighing device
44 Old theater letters
45 Wading bird
46 Poi base
50 Disencumber
51 Caustic solution
52 Morning moisture
53 Away from NNW

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

1					8		2	
			5	3			6	
	5		7					4
	8	9		1				
3			6		7			5
				5		9	1	
2					9		4	
	3			7	5			
	9		3					6

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

5	9	2	7	1	6	8	4	3
8	4	1	2	3	5	6	9	7
3	7	6	8	9	4	1	5	2
4	5	7	9	8	2	5	3	1
1	8	9	5	7	3	4	2	6
2	6	3	4	6	1	9	7	8
6	1	4	3	5	7	2	8	9
7	2	8	6	4	9	3	1	5
9	3	5	1	2	8	7	6	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Tannis
You have been a wonderful girlfriend, who I can always trust and rely on. I am not perfect but as you know I am working on improving myself. You are more than what I want in my life. So here is the kiss for you to say thank you for everything. Sorry if I upset in the past, but you must know that I love you with all my heart and soul. You are the only one for me. Keep loving me sweetie.
FROM JAMES

Dear Gemini Gal
I love your blond hair, killer smile and beautiful blue eyes. The other day I saw you with a chimp in zoo. Obviously you love animals, good for you. If you are free and want to go for a drink, fire me a kiss.:):)
FROM I AM INTO YOU

A look at the weather

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Min -3°	Min 1°	Min -1°
Max 10°	Max 7°	Max 4°

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist
"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 6AM**

BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You may not want to go above a colleague's head and appeal to a higher authority today but you have no choice in the matter.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 If you need a helping hand as the new week begins don't be embarrassed to ask.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 No one expects you to do it all, so don't expect it of yourself.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Cancer is a cardinal sign and that means you were born to achieve.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 People will respond to you better this week of you can make them believe that by helping you they will also in some way be helping themselves.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Never give up hope. Never believe that you are destined to fail.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 There may be a small but important detail that you have overlooked and only a fresh pair of eyes can see it.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Not even a Scorpio can win every time.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Resist the temptation to jump to conclusions and make accusations that you may not be able to back up with facts.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You will be thrust into the spotlight at some point today and it may not be an entirely enjoyable experience.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 It may be the case that someone you thought was a friend has been using you to get ahead in their career, but don't make an issue of it.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. You may have to bend the truth a little today, especially if there is money at stake. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

PATRICK SEMANSKY/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALPH ORLOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

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